

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1           1.    A computer program product comprising a  
2    computer useable medium having computer readable  
3    program code means therein for providing a single  
4    application programming interface, said computer  
5    readable program code means in said computer program  
6    product comprising:

7                    computer readable program code means for  
8           causing a computer to affect communicating  
9           between a member of a process group of related  
10          processes and another member of said process  
11          group; and

12                   computer readable program code means for  
13          causing a computer to affect synchronizing said  
14          related processes of said process group.

1           2.    The computer readable program code means in  
2    said computer program product of claim 1, further  
3    comprising computer readable program code means for  
4    causing a computer to affect managing membership of  
5    at least one of said process group and a processor  
6    group of processors.

1           3.    The computer readable program code means in  
2    said computer program product of claim 1, further  
3    comprising computer readable program code means for  
4    causing a computer to affect controlling a group  
5    state value for said process group.

1           4.    A computer program product comprising a  
2 computer useable medium having computer readable  
3 program code means therein for providing a single  
4 application programming interface, said computer  
5 readable program code means in said computer program  
6 product comprising:

7                   computer readable program code means for  
8 causing a computer to affect communicating  
9 between a member of a process group of related  
10 processes and another member of said process  
11 group;

12                   computer readable program code means for  
13 causing a computer to affect synchronizing said  
14 related processes of said process group;

15                   computer readable program code means for  
16 causing a computer to affect managing membership  
17 of said process group and a processor group of  
18 processors; and

19                   computer readable program code means for  
20 causing a computer to affect controlling a group  
21 state value for said process group.

1           5.    The computer readable program code means in  
2 said computer program product of claim 4, further  
3 comprising computer readable program code means for  
4 causing a computer to affect monitoring, by a member  
5 of said process group having no voting rights, one or  
6 more aspects of said process group.